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Bobcaygeon Road project out of budget

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

Minden Hills councillors removed the reconstruction of Bobcaygeon Road from the township's 2021 budget during their fifth and final round of budget deliberations on Feb. 25.

Council has landed on a tax levy increase for the year of 3.75 per cent, which equates to a residential tax rate increase at the lower-tier level of 2.6 per cent. This equates to an increase of \$11.47 for every \$100,000 of assessment, assuming a property has not experienced a change in assessment since 2020.

For commercial properties, that would mean an increase of \$19.54 for every \$100,000 of assessment. Residents will have a chance to weigh in on the draft budget during a March 11 meeting.

Councillors ultimately decided to remove the reconstruction of Bobcaygeon Road – a \$2 million project that would have been paid for through a loan – from the draft budget. The draft budget contained millions in borrowing, and both Councillor Bob Carter and Councillor Pam Sayne have reiterated throughout discussions that they were concerned about becoming too reliant on large debentures, and the consequences that increasing loan interest would have for taxpayers down the proverbial road.

Staff had been asked to provide scenarios including and excluding the Bobcaygeon

see CARTER page 2



Backyard igloo

Carnarvon residents Memphis, who lies inside the entrance of the igloo, and his mother Kim Switzer are excited about getting to make winter memories only a few steps from their home. Switzer said the igloo will be her escape and help to deal with stress. See story on page 4. /DARREN LUM Staff

Take an investigative journey to find Heaven

by DARREN LUM
Times Staff

Later this week the true-crime documentary series *For Heaven's Sake* focusing on uncovering an 87-year-old mystery related to

the disappearance of Harold Heaven is coming to a screen near you.

Hosted by amateur sleuths and comedians, Heaven's great-great nephew Mike Mildon and his best friend Jackson Rowe, the documentary takes viewers on a journey to find the truth about how Heaven disappeared from his remote cabin located in the woods

of what is now Minden Hills during the winter of 1934.

Viewers can watch the eight-episode documentary directed by Tim Johnson blending humour and intrigue online with the no fee streaming channel CBC Gem or on Paramount+ (formerly Viacom CBS as of

see MINDEN page 2

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Minden perfect backdrop to documentary series

from page 1

March 4) starting on March 4.

Mildon and Rowe were happy with the finished work and they encourage the public to watch all eight episodes and join them, as they scour for clues, interview colourful characters and follow up leads to unearthing information in the Highlands about what happened to Heaven on that fateful night.

"It really is a journey and we kind of end on a note that I think we're happy with," he said.

Rowe and Mildon are thankful to the community of Minden, which figures prominently in footage, for the support and help.

"We went to the Dominion Hotel almost every night. We stayed at the Red Umbrella Inn. Minden, Haliburton County was our home for, you know, three, four months, almost five months, all told. It was nothing but generous, kind, friendly people. As someone born and raised in Toronto I appreciated the heck out of that. I love Minden. I love Haliburton and absolutely I'll be back," Rowe said.

Sleuthing for the first time provided the long-time friends, who were also executive producers on the project, a new perspective they weren't expecting.

"At the start we lacked some perspective. We were head down let's just solve this thing no matter what it takes and then halfway through we looked up and we realized that we were affecting other people with the information we were trying to bring forward, some of the theories, some of the hearsay that we're maybe assigning too much gravity to," Rowe said. "It was a feeling out process. It was a process of us learning what it means to be a detective and actually solve a case. It's not just what you see in the true crime documentary. As we go through the season that's something we explore. It's something that comes to roost, you know, our chickens come home to roost. In that sense that real people are affected by the stuff that we say."

Mildon continues, "We don't want to spoil anything, but theories were not evidence and



Amateur sleuths Mike Mildon, left, and best friend Jackson Rowe, who are seen in this photo digging for Harold Heaven's body with relatives around back last August, are featured in the true crime documentary series *For Heaven's Sake* scheduled to launch on CBC Gem starting on March 4. Follow their efforts to uncover the truth behind the disappearance of Harold Heaven, who disappeared from his cabin in the woods of Minden in the winter of 1934. /File photo

opinions are not facts so we kind of show our journey as amateur investigators figuring out the dos and don'ts of due process."

They also believe their lack of expertise in detective work will relate to the audience.

"Jackson and I almost serve as that audience perspective of getting the information for the first time and just trying to release that amateur sleuth in everybody," Mildon said.

With an affection for the area through spending summers here, Mildon appreciated the help of the residents, particularly from the Heaven family members, and is willing to accept any criticism if there is any as a result of the documentary.

"There was such a warmth and so much support within the Heaven family, and trust. They didn't know the story we're telling. They just knew facts about Harold and the

campfire story we're investigating so just them opening their doors and giving us cookies was a really warm experience. It's really about Jackson and I, our journey as investigators. They were just helpful throughout [so] the blame could fall on us if anybody had a problem with the documentary, which I don't see [happening]," he said.

Minden, like a lot of small towns, they said, proved to be home to great storytellers where local legends are strong. They called it the perfect setting for their unique documentary.

"I don't know if all small towns are the same, but [they have] ... their own ecosystem where they do things a certain way. Everybody knows everyone. Everyone talks to each other. It's fascinating. It's an amazing way to live. It's very Canadian. I'm thrilled.

More people should be exposed to it, honestly," Rowe said.

Mildon said when they got excited the people around them shared in that excitement.

"I would not want to base the show anywhere else," he said.

Like any creative work, there was plenty of footage of jokes and information left out after the close to a year editing process, but Mildon and Rowe ruled out any spin-offs or continuations of this story.

"I think this put the cap on the Harold story unless someone comes out of the woodwork and tells us something that we didn't know before, but I don't know as far as what happens next. We're really just excited to release this series and see how the town of Minden and the world responds," Mildon said.

Carter, Sayne concerned about too much borrowing

from page 1

Road project as part of the fifth round of budget discussions.

"Bobcaygeon Road is the big ticket thing... but to me it's a little bit like holding water back behind a dam," said Mayor Brent Devolin. "At some point the hit's coming."

"This is an unfortunate circumstance in that we look at budgets on an annual basis," said Carter. "And in this case, because of the decisions we make this year, as [finance director] Lorrie [Blanchard] has pointed out, almost nothing that we're going to do is going to affect the 2021 budget by any material amount. And so we look forward to 2022.

But when she looks at 2022, that doesn't consider 2023."

Carter noted other projects – such as a \$1.5-million reconstruction of Scotch Line Road – would also have to be completed before long, likely in 2022 or 2023.

Council has also used large surpluses from 2019 and 2020 – both in the neighbourhood of \$1 million – to pay for projects in order to keep tax increases down.

"We have taken our 2019 surplus and our 2020 surplus and we have split it to reduce taxes in 2021 and 2022," Carter said. "We've assumed we're going to reduce [the surplus] by about \$600,000 in each of those years, and that's great."

"But that means in 2023, that \$600,000 is no longer there," he continued.

Carter also noted the township's new arena and recreation complex, once operational, would carry annual debenture payments of approximately \$650,000, and annual staffing costs of approximately \$250,000.

"I cannot support borrowing \$2.1 million to do Bobcaygeon Road this year," Carter said.

Sayne said she supported Carter's point. "I think finally the chickens are coming home to roost with some of our initiatives,

and we've got to really pay attention," Sayne said. "... I would really like to see the roads assessment done before we start moving ahead."

"I'm the last one that likes to hold back on roads," Sayne continued, "but, in this case, until we have that full plan and we can get a better sense of our funding options, let's try to hold the reins on some things." Devolin then asked for comments from other members of council, and was met with momentary silence.

"This is a seven-person decision," Devolin said. "Nobody gets off the hook."

Councillor Jennifer Hughey ultimately agreed with Carter.

"I agree that it could be difficult to spend money that is loaned to us when an interest rate could change," Hughey said. "Again, like Councillor Sayne said, I am very much a proponent for roads because it's the thing we get the most complaints for. But we also get a lot of complaints for the increase in taxes. So, I would support Councillor Carter's view."

Councillor Ron Nesbitt agreed. "I think we have to go with Bob, too. I think we have to use our head on this," Nesbitt said.

Council ultimately unanimously endorsed the 3.75 per cent levy increase.

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HCDC provides millions in loans during pandemic

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The Haliburton County Development Corporation has provided millions of dollars in loans to local businesses since the COVID-19 pandemic began nearly a year ago.

“Basically as soon as the pandemic hit, I got the board of directors together, and we created a COVID loans program that was similar to the flood relief program,” HCDC executive director Patti Tallman told members of Haliburton County council during a presentation at a Feb. 24 online meeting. “Loans were provided to businesses that applied at zero per cent, and it was a fast-track moving program that we implemented quite quickly and it was quite successful.”

A total of \$1.4 million in funding was requested through the COVID loans program, with more than \$900,000 approved in 23 separate loans, \$776,000 of which has been dispersed. HCDC also offered payment deferrals for existing clients for three months amid the pandemic, although Tallman said the majority of clients chose not to take that option, and that after the three-month period, 95 per cent of the business owners

who received money were able to resume loan payments.

“So it was quite a great process to see the strength of the businesses that we had under our portfolio,” Tallman said.

In May, HCDC received \$1.7 million in capitalization funding from the federal government allowing for loans of up to \$40,000 with 25 per cent of the amount forgivable. Subsequent top ups provided \$40,000 loans with up to 50 per cent forgivable. So far, 42 loans totalling nearly \$1.4 million have been dispersed through that funding program.

By sector, main street businesses constituted 22 per cent of loans; sole-proprietor businesses 48 per cent; and tourism operators 30 per cent. By industry, accommodators and food services accounted for 32.4 per cent of loans; arts, entertainment and recreation 2.16 per cent; retail 13.5 per cent; and manufacturing 5.4 per cent. Businesses classified as “other” – including education services, utilities and professional services – accounted for 27 per cent.

HCDC has also provided \$5.3 million in funding through its regular loan program since the pandemic began. Tallman thanked Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy, who is currently chairman of the HCDC board, for his leadership during the crisis.

“

It was quite a great process to see the strength of the businesses that we had under our portfolio.

— HCDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PATTI TALLMAN

”

County backs LTC coalition declaration

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a Feb. 24 online meeting of Haliburton County council.

Council passed a resolution providing support in principle for the activities of the Haliburton-CKL Long-Term Care Coalition, receiving a presentation from co-chairs Bonnie Roe and Mike Perry.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the shortcomings of the long-term care system, Roe told councillors the system has been broken for decades.

“COVID-19 has shone a light on this crisis due to the horrific deaths, but we can’t kid ourselves, that this has been happening for decades, several decades,” Roe said of the

circumstances in which residents of long-term care facilities live.

The coalition recently passed a declaration calling on the provincial and federal governments to improve the long-term care system. Recommended changes include putting long-term care under the Canada Health Act to ensure public funding and apply national standards; immediately increase staffing to ensure at least four hours of care per resident per day; raising wages and improving workloads and working conditions for frontline workers; increasing infection prevention; enhancing specialized expertise in long-term care leadership; and reinstating thorough annual resident quality inspections of all long-term care homes.

Haliburton County Warden Liz Danielsen noted that the Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus, to which the county belongs, has identified long-term care as one of its top priorities.

“The wardens’ caucus is definitely supportive of the four hours of care, as minimum care,” Danielsen said.

County supports arts centre fundraising

Councillors approved a letter of support for grant funding applications by the Haliburton Highlands Performing Arts Centre Foundation after hearing a presentation from foundation president Dan Manley.

The foundation’s goal is the construction of a modern arts centre in the Haliburton Highlands that would include an acoustically engineered performance space large enough to house an orchestra, a secondary theatre for smaller events, acoustically isolated rehearsal spaces, a centralized box office for performing arts events, and a lobby where alcoholic beverages could be served.

It is currently seeking funding to perform a feasibility study, that study expected to cost \$75,000.



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SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Are you a student looking for a great summer job? The Township of Minden Hills is currently accepting resumes for Summer Students for our **Community Services Department in Parks** and at our **Minden Hills Cultural Centre as Heritage Interpreters**.

Both positions are for a 16 week period from May to August with the rate of pay being \$14.25/hour, pending 2021 budget and grant funding approval.

Please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ for posting details, job requirements and submission instructions, or email sprentice@mindenhills.ca



(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice.

Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

March 11 – Committee of the Whole Meeting
March 11 – Public Meeting Draft 2021 Budget
March 25 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

NOTICE: PUBLIC MEETING DRAFT 2021 BUDGET

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, March 11, 2021 during its Committee of the Whole Meeting via web conference regarding the Draft 2021 Budget. Please visit www.mindenhills.ca for information on how to participate or access the livestream link to the Public Meeting.

Trisha McKibbin, CAO/Clerk,
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- Never leave cleaning rags in a pile. At the end of the day, take the rags outside to dry.
- Hang the rags outside or spread them on the ground. Weigh them down so they do not blow away. Make sure they are not in a pile. Keep them away from buildings.
- Put dried rags in a metal container with a tight cover and fill with a water and detergent solution to break down the oils.
- Keep containers of oily rags in a cool place and out of direct sunlight and other heat sources. Check with the Environmental Department for disposal information.

LIQUIDS THAT CAN CATCH FIRE

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- Keep liquids in their original containers. Keep them tightly capped or sealed. Never store the liquids in glass containers.

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- Store gasoline ONLY in a container that is sold for that purpose. Make sure the container is tightly capped when not in use. NEVER store gasoline containers in a basement or in the occupied space of a building. Keep them in an outbuilding, a detached garage or a shed.

LANDFILL ACCESS PASSES

Landfill Access Passes for Minden Hills residents will be distributed in the Spring Interim Tax Bill. Please ensure you open your bill and save your Landfill Access Pass. If you have already received your tax bill, please watch for a second mailing containing your access cards.

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

The 2021 Interim tax bills were mailed on February 26, 2021. If you have not received your bill(s) prior to the March due date, please contact our office.

The Interim tax bill will be payable in two installments; March 19th and May 21st, 2021. This bill has been calculated using the 2020 annualized assessment multiplied by 50% of the 2020 applicable tax rate(s).

Payments received after February 15th may not be reflected on your tax bill. Please note that any overdue amounts do not include penalty/interest for March. Please contact our office for a current balance.

Property owners are responsible to provide to the Municipal Office written notification of any address change.

Failure to receive your tax bill does not exempt penalty charges from being applied to a tax account.

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Your recycling is sorted by hand by other people. To keep them safe and make their job easier, please make sure your recyclables are rinsed and empty.

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Backyard igloo provides positive shelter in Carnarvon

by SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

To anyone looking into Kim Switzer's backyard last week, they might have seen what looked to be Switzer playing with her son, Memphis.

But despite the singing, the dancing, the laughter, and the pure joy on their faces, the pair were actually working; tromping around in snowshoes in a very particular way to create a 12-foot-wide flat circle in the snow that would serve as the starting point for a backyard igloo.

The joy was much needed for Switzer, who thrives when she is outside but has found it difficult to do so this winter in the way she needs for optimum mental health.

"For me, it's pure joy," she said. "I love nature, it's rejuvenating for me. It's uplifting."

Being a single mom of three, homeschooling her kids, experiencing the death of a parent and the loss of a business, all while living through the pandemic and experiencing a lack of winter camping left Switzer feeling discouraged.

"My whole winter has been [hard], I haven't been out, I haven't been out anywhere," she said.

Then, the kindness of a stranger and the connection made available through social media turned Switzer's winter around.

An avid outdoorsperson herself, she follows like-minded people on social media for ideas, inspiration and friendship. When she saw Martin Pine, who is from Huntsville, share about igloos he was making, she quickly sent him a message asking if he might come to her house and build one in her yard.

"The next thing I know, I get a message in my inbox that says, 'you're like the third person who's asked me about building an igloo in their yard, and you're the only one that's actually close enough that could actually make it possible,'" she said.

Switzer was exuberant with excitement, in the manner, she said, of "a little kid in a candy shop."

"And I still am," she said, the week after the igloo was built.

After she and Memphis had created the starting point in the yard for the igloo, Pine visited the backyard and helped to teach Switzer the technique he has perfected using a contraption called, fittingly, an Icebox Igloo Tool.

"He pops open this little itty, bitty, tiny, square box that I would say is definitely less than six inches thick, and maybe a foot wide by 18 inches long," she said. "It folds all up and it's meant to strap on your back so you can take it anywhere."

With the Icebox Igloo Tool, Switzer said Pine can generally build an igloo in about four or five hours but she said it took them more time as she was asking questions and learn-



Kim Switzer of Carnarvon shows the inside of the igloo, which she will use to find peace and a space to write./DARREN LUM Staff

ing the process of packing the snow, following the angle guide and creating an igloo that can hold the weight of a person leaning against it.

"There were plenty of times where he was like, 'you're so concentrated,'" she said. "I was just soaking it all in. I learned so much about snow, and even going around the circle I learned how snow changes state ever so slightly. In the shade, it packs this way, but as you come around and you're in the sun, it becomes a little more wet, and a little bit more sticky ... How different snow packs and moves and blends, it's pretty wild, actually."

When it was finished, Switzer said she was able to get her much-needed outdoor time, sleeping overnight in the igloo, spending time in it with her ukulele, even eating a take-out meal from the Mill Pond restaurant in the shelter.

Pine's unmonetized YouTube channel has almost 10,000 subscribers and his instructional videos of canoe camping,

winter camping, bushcraft, meal preparation and igloo construction have accumulated thousands of views.

"I love backcountry camping and I have always lamented that so few people avail themselves of the opportunities we have here in Ontario for getting out into nature and camping in the backcountry," he told the *Times*. "I determined many years ago that what keeps people from camping in the backcountry – as opposed to say, car camping in a serviced site in a park – is a simple lack of practical knowledge about how to go about [it]."

He shares his knowledge online and was happy to help Switzer learn how to make her own igloo in her backyard – for the price of a cup of coffee or two.

"As a boy, growing up in rural Quebec, I loved making and camping in snow shelters called quinzees, which is essentially a large pile of shovelled snow which one then hollows out to resemble a crude igloo-like shelter," said Pine.

Pine said he knew that igloos were sturdier shelters that could remain standing longer and would not result in the builder getting soaked in their creation.

"But the Inuit built their igloos out of a type of snow that is not found in this part of the country, namely hard-sintered, wind-packed snow, which can then be shaped during the building process."

Pine purchased the Icebox Igloo Tool, an invention created by an American mountaineer in Colorado, "Igloo Ed," that allows him to make snow bricks regardless of the snow conditions.

While Switzer's igloo has suffered in recent weather conditions, she sees the resulting hole in the top of the igloo as an opportunity – one to provide a chance to look up at the stars, and also, to learn about how to fix the problem in her own backyard igloo as experience for if she builds one at another time in backcountry.

"I've got to learn, and you learn from trial and error, mistakes, whatever it might be," she said. "It's been four or five days of just an abundance of information."

The igloo in the backyard of her Carnarvon home has lifted her spirits tremendously.

"This is the highlight of my winter," said Switzer. "That right there made my entire winter."

For more information, visit Pine's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/PineMartyn>.



Chinook 30

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Fire ravages home in Hunter Creek Estates

by **CHAD INGRAM**
Editor

Fire destroyed a mobile home in Hunter Creek Estates south of Minden on the morning of Friday, Feb. 26, with no one hurt in the blaze.

The Minden Hills fire department got the call at 5:18 a.m., with the first truck on site 11 minutes later. Fire chief Nelson Johnson told the *Times* firefighters arrived to find “a working fire with flames and heavy smoke showing, and the fire was self-ventilated.”

The mobile home was under repairs at the time, with renovations being done to its interior, and the resident was not home at the time of the fire.

“The fire was noticed by the neighbour and

a Minden Hills township staff member on their way to work,” Johnson wrote in an email.

Eleven firefighters with one engine, two water haulers, a rescue vehicle and command vehicle attended the scene, along with county EMS. The fire was out by 8:30 a.m., with salvage operations commencing after that. There were no injuries to members of the public or of the department.

“I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication to the community,” Johnson wrote. “Their performance and skill during this incident allowed a rapid knock-down of the fire and control of the situation. Our new deputy fire chief Shain Duda was in command and performed exceptionally at the scene and controlled the site for a safe and organized control of the incident.”



Members of the Minden Hills fire department respond to a blaze at a home in Hunter Creek Estates, just south of Minden, at approximately 5:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 26. The occupant of the home was not there at the time of the fire. / Photo by Larry O'Connor

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Parade of memories

THROUGHOUT THE COVID-19 pandemic, I have continued to work from the *Minden Times* office most days of the week.

The office has been closed to the public at various points, but I continue to make the commute most workdays. I don't really go anywhere once I get here – I talk on the phone, watch council meetings on YouTube, send emails and write – but the 15-minute commute has provided me with some sense of normalcy throughout the past year. Coming to the office also allows me to actually get work accomplished, since there are a three-year-old and a one-year-old at my house.

On most days, I do take a walk at some point, to get some exercise and clear my head. This trek typically takes me down Bobcaygeon Road into Minden's downtown, and depending on the day and how much time I have, maybe around Riverwalk, or over to the cultural centre or arena. Sometimes I pass someone else out for a stroll, sometimes not. Sometimes businesses are open, sometimes not. Sometimes someone in their car will stop and we'll have a chat, me basically shouting from the sidewalk. That we are continuing to live through a pandemic is evident everywhere.

More and more on these outings, I find myself walking not just through town, but also through time. I've worked for the paper and lived in the county for more than a dozen years now, and have layers of memories over virtually every inch of Minden. More and more, these memories, from what now seems like a faraway past, pop into my mind's eye as I stroll.

Plant sales by the Minden and District Horticultural Society at the Village Green. Folk society concerts at the United Church. Santa

Claus parades. Remembrance Day ceremonies. Once, along the main drag, there was a street festival where as a Rotary fundraiser, you could throw cream pies at Minden Hills councillors and I caught Rick Ratcliff square in the face. Remember that, Rick?

Memories dance like ghosts everywhere.

Twilight lantern ceremonies for Festival of the August Moon. Packed public meetings and parties at the community centre. Jamborees. Terry Fox Runs. The fair. Music by the Gull. Minden Pride.

Uncountable hours in council chambers. Interviews over coffee. Interviews over beer. Myriad art openings and talks at the cultural centre. Live theatre under the tent. Graduation ceremonies in the ASES gymnasium. Storm playoff games and figure

skating carnivals at the rink. Bonspiels at the curling club. Countless afternoons and evenings cavorting, listening to and playing music on crowded patios at the Dominion Hotel and Boshkung Social.

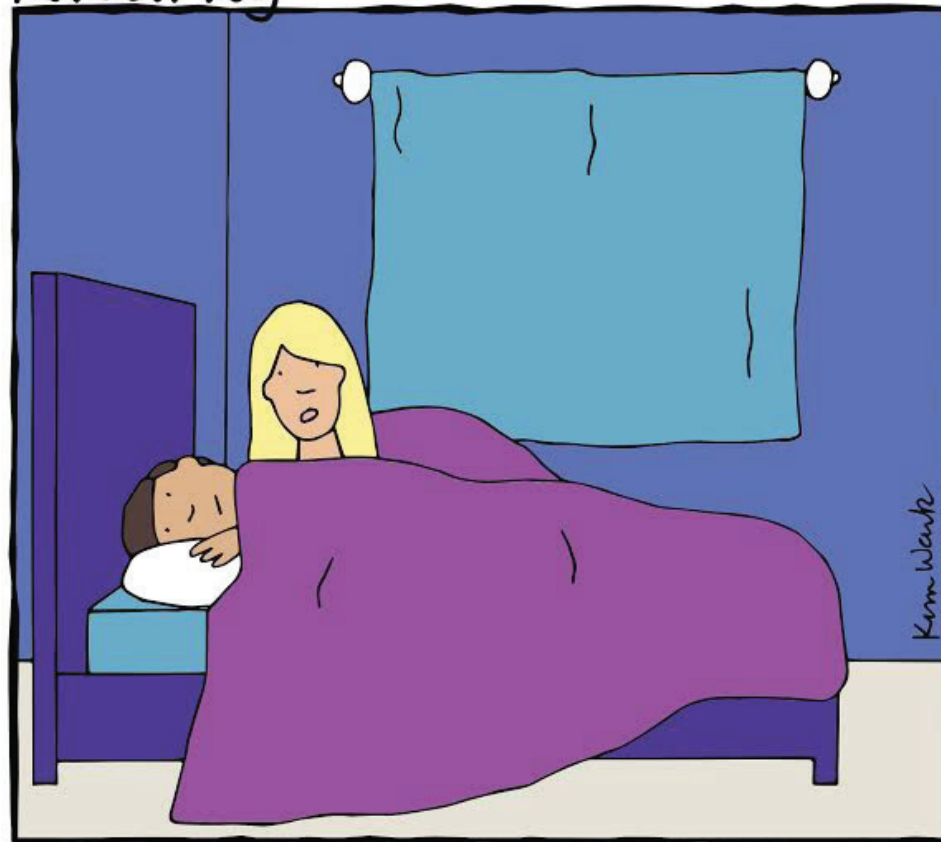
Canada Day, with Water Street barricaded from Bobcaygeon to St. Germaine, lined with classic cars and flooded with a thousand people. The Rotary and Lions clubs selling hotdogs and hamburgers, members of the Minden Legion running minnow races near the post office. Families headed down the Gull River on homemade rafts while the crowds along the banks cheer them on, members of council as the race officials standing on the bridge.

All the things that were once so completely commonplace that it was not even fathomable they could be taken for granted.

I want it back. I want it all back.

**CHAD INGRAM**
Editor

Kwarky



"Our marriage will last longer if you breathe less."

When the sawdust settles

LATE LAST week, I bought myself the nifty lightweight folding bow that I have had my eye on for a few years. It's a wonderful item made specifically for backpacking, canoe camping, duck blind building or should you ever have need to threaten a tree.

Despite its obvious versatility, a purchase like this is gut-wrenching for an outdoorsman.

On one hand, it is a truly neat piece of kit that will prove useful when you find yourself in need of a good saw at a campsite. With it, you can buck up a log or two for the campfire (because campsite chores don't feel like work.) It might also come in handy to make some camp furniture or clear a tree that is blocking a portage trail to a backwoods brook trout lake. That's the upside.

On the other hand, it is also a tool. And tools are a four-letter word that, too often, remind your partner that there are plenty of unfinished projects around the house.

As if that's not bad enough, a purchase like this might even prompt your partner to say, "Why did you need to buy that thing anyhow? You'll only use it a few times a year at most."

That is one of those logical questions that most outdoorsman would rather avoid hearing. For, if you fail to answer it correctly, your partner is going to eventually ask the same thing about why you bought that fourth fly rod. And, trust me, no good can ever come of that.

In fact, it can put you in a very precarious situation.

Luckily, there is a reasonable approach to preventing this unfortunate sequence of events. All you need to do is to disrupt the normal routine of your household for a couple of months by using the new folding saw for any imaginable task it might be suited for or until you have proved your point – whichever comes first.

For instance, since I have purchased my new camp saw, I have insisted on buying unsliced bread and lunch meats, so she is reminded of how useful it is with every sandwich. I also unfold it and rush into the

room every time I hear sentences like, "I think it's time we clipped the dog's nails," "Can you carve the turkey?" or "What we really need in this room is a smaller end table."

By the way, the latter sentence is also a great time to introduce the idea of buying that neat little camp hatchet so that you can do the job just right.

Do this for a couple of months and soon the problematic question of why you needed that camp saw will never be asked again. In fact, for a week or two, you might not hear anything mentioned at all.

You'll know this uncomfortable battle is finally over when, one day you will reach for it after hearing that she needs a tomato slice, only to find it is not where you left it. Instead, a brief search will reveal that your partner moved it to the basement where it is safely tucked away with all your other camping gear as well as that old end table and the new hatchet.

With any luck at all, you'll notice that as you are putting away your fifth fly rod.

**STEVE GALEA**
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

The great birdsong mystery

OUR FIRST GUESS at the source of the bird tweets, twitters and cheeps was a robin. We were in the living room one afternoon when the racket began. It was sharp, penetrating and seemed to come from the ceiling.

We banged the ceiling with a broom handle but the chirping did not stop. We Googled bird calls and concluded that a robin got into our rafters.

The next day I checked the eaves and fascia, but there were no holes, cracks or crevices that would allow a bird into the building.

The birdsong returned the next day and more investigation revealed no place of entry or any sign of a bird. We downloaded more bird calls and decided it was not a robin. Maybe a woodland thrush or a warbler.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

What such a bird was doing inside our place in mid-winter was another mystery. But after another day or so the birdsong stopped and we assumed the singer had moved on.

It returned this week, more high-pitched than before and it continued well into the evening.

Pounding on the ceiling and screaming into the woodwork did not make it stop. This was one stubborn bird, something possessed sent to drive us mad.

The next morning, we checked outside. The way the snow was banked on the roof provided a possible sheltered hiding spot. Also, a pyramidal vent stack protector might offer a place to hide, keep warm and sing.

But both possibilities were outside and the birdsong was shrill and piercing inside. We talked about shovelling the roof or perhaps calling an exterminator.

That evening, we again sat to watch some television and the bird calls began piercing the room. They were loud enough to override Bill Maher using the F-word on his *Real Time* television show.

We watched the 10 o'clock news then went to bed, leaving the bird chirping and cheeping. Obviously, it had no intention of sleeping, or allowing us to sleep.

I am partially deaf from competitive target shooting without earmuffs decades ago when I foolishly did not pay attention to such things. So, I unplugged my hearing aids and fell asleep.

My wife was not so fortunate. The bird kept her up most of the night. About 4 a.m. she couldn't tolerate any more. I awoke to her pounding the ceiling and shouting for the bird to shut up.

I am not the most pleasant person when my sleep is disturbed, so an argument ensued.

"You have to turn the volume up to 100 to hear the television or radio but you can hear little tweets from a bird?" I shouted before storming back to bed.

I was awakened later by the sweet aroma of freshly-brewed coffee and traipsed down to the kitchen, where my wife was sending and receiving her daily "good morning" messages on her iPad.

"It's here in the kitchen now," she informed me sleepily. "And, it's even louder. At least it shut up long enough for me to do my messages."

That evening it started up again as we watched the television news. Frustrated, my wife picked up her iPad to read and ignore the annoying racket. When she did, the birdsong stopped suddenly.

Then it dawned on us: every time the bird sang, the iPad was close by. And, whenever an iPad button was pushed, the birdsong stopped. The bird was inside the iPad!

I consulted Google and learned that others have complained of hearing noises, some bird-like, on their iPads. I didn't try to learn more about those complaints or what those iPad owners had discovered, if anything.

I didn't because I feared finding yet another conspiracy theory, and we already have too many of those.

With thousands believing climate change is caused by Jewish snow machines in space, or that COVID-19 is fake news, or that liberal thinkers are pedophiles who eat little children, anything is possible.

It's not a far reach for those who believe that Bill Gates is a voodoo doll trying to depopulate the world, to believing that Apple is practising mind control with birdsongs in its iPads.

Meanwhile, we are not taking any chances. The iPad is locked away in a soundproof place and quiet has returned to our house.

letters to the editor

Pandemic as political cover

To the Editor,

Using the pandemic for political cover, the Ford government is fast-tracking Highway 413, cutting through 55 kilometres of prime farmlands, conservation land, waterways and protected areas. The corresponding urban sprawl will destroy some of Ontario's most productive farmland. There has been no formal agricultural impacts assessment of the proposed highway and the government wants to avoid a full environmental assessment, opting for a streamlined (faster, less thorough) version. Based on an expert panel report which concluded that the highway was "not the best way to address the region's changing transportation needs," the project was cancelled in 2018. Costing approximately \$6 billion, commuters would save only 30 seconds per trip.

Why should residents of Haliburton County care?

1. Food security. As domestic food production is decreased by destroying farmland, we become more dependent upon expensive imported food. In the words of Peter Victor, economist and chair of the green belt council, "Once we've paved

over the lands that provide our food supply, it's gone forever. And you can't eat real estate."

2. The highway cost will be borne by taxpayers. Cheaper, more environmentally friendly alternatives to solve congestion were identified in the expert panel report.

3. It is important Ontarians are confident large infrastructure or industrial proposals are examined through proper environmental assessments. If protections can be waived to expedite projects elsewhere, the same shortcuts could bring irreversible environmental, economic and social effects to Haliburton as well.

4. Agriculture, food processing, tourism and recreational industries are being put at risk, endangering jobs and billions in economic activity.

6. Increased traffic will produce more greenhouse gases putting climate goals at risk.

Development in Ontario must benefit the majority of Ontarians and enhance quality of life. A government that claims to be "for the people" probably isn't. Actions speak more loudly than words.

Elizabeth Turner
CCHC



Dave Mount captured a shot of this barred owl perched in a tree.

HCPL's Book of the Month - March



A provocative, and perspective-shifting book from one of Canada's most celebrated and uncompromising writers, Desmond Cole.

In his 2015 cover story for *Toronto Life* magazine, Desmond Cole exposed the racist actions of the Toronto police force, detailing the dozens of times he had been stopped and interrogated under the controversial practice of carding. The story quickly came to national prominence, catapulting its author into the public sphere. Cole used his newfound profile to draw insistent, unyielding attention to the injustices faced by Black Canadians.

Puncturing the bubble of Canadian smugness and naive assumptions of a post-racial nation, *The Skin We're In* chronicles just one year - 2017 - in the struggle against racism in this country. Month-by-month, Cole creates a comprehensive picture of entrenched, systemic inequality. Urgent, controversial, and unsparingly honest, this book is a staple for anti-racist and social justice movements in Canada, as well as a potent antidote to the all-too-present complacency of many white Canadians.

Instant gratification

IT'S TAKEN me a long time but I'm figuring out the perils of instant gratification. Instant gratification is defined as the desire to experience pleasure or fulfillment without delay or deferment. Sadly, today more than ever we want what we want and we want it fast.

I started taking guitar lessons a month ago. I'm privileged to be working with Nicholas Russell (check him out at nicholasrussell.ca). I have taken lessons from a number of different teachers in the past 12 years but something is different this time.

While Nicholas is an incredible musician and teacher I believe this time I am ready to be an equally great student. I have set the intention that by the time I'm 65 years old I will be a kickass guitar player. I have 4.5 years to get there. In the month I've been taking lessons I have practiced an average of 6 hours per week. That's like 5 hours and 55 minutes more than I had been playing per week prior to starting the lessons.

The other day Nicholas talked about a famous musician who claimed his music was all about letting the magic happen. The half of the statement was that the magic couldn't happen without establishing a solid foundation of guitar playing skills. As I thought about this concept I realized my abilities as a musician had been limited by the foundation I had established. There were parts missing. This became a problem when I wanted to do more and couldn't. I slid into a rut. Picking up a guitar was something I wanted to do but

I didn't. I was stuck. I am now – slowly – climbing out of that rut.

This concept applies to every part of our lives. When I reflect on areas where I feel I've been successful I can see how I devoted the time and energy to building a strong foundation. As an example, I've owned and operated The Point for Fitness since 2004. Prior to starting the business I worked for a company that started small and grew. I observed and absorbed all that I could while I worked there. In addition to the hands-on experience I read business book after business book. That was the foundation building for starting my own business. It took years.

Malcolm Gladwell says it takes 10,000 hours of practising the correct way to achieve world-class expertise at a specific skill. I am not in any way suggesting that we all need to become world-class experts at something but I am suggesting that we re-think how we set our expectations. Is it the journey or the destination? I'm not sure about you but there have been many times in my life the destination has not turned out to be what I thought/hoped it would be. I am now finding joy in getting through

the C major scale on the guitar. Some days it goes perfectly and some days I trip over the strings. Either way I know that I'm getting a step closer by picking up the guitar and playing it. There's gratification in that.

Something to think about.
Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.



LAURIE SWEIG
Practical Fitness

Accessibility concerns for housing development

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Concerns about early plans for the Gull River affordable housing project related to parking spaces and lack of sidewalks were brought forth in the county's joint accessibility advisory committee's Feb. 24 virtual meeting.

Committee members, meeting for the first time since March 2020, discussed a need for more accessible parking spaces on the site, and questioned the lack of sidewalks leading to and from the site.

The \$6.8 million housing development proposed for the intersection of Highway 35 and County Road 21 in Minden plans for 30 affordable units within 15 duplexes on a property between the intersection and the Gull River. Minden Hills council has unanimously supported the project, which is much-needed in the county.

The property is physically close to town and services such as grocery stores, but the nearest sidewalk is not located near the entrance to the site on Highway 35.

"I guess, going down the side of the highway is, you know, a bit dangerous," said Mallory Bishop, committee member. "But, I'm just thinking about ways to get in and out of the area as well, to make sure that it's easily walkable to get out of here because if you're close to that area, some people might want to walk into downtown because they're close enough, but that design would have to be done as it's developed so there's enough shoulder room and so on just so that it's not dangerous to get out of there."

Minden Hills planner Ian Clendening said there were "five lanes of Hwy 35 to get across to County Road 21" and no modifications are proposed at this time. There are not currently sidewalks between Rotary Park and the site.

"Someone who comes out of their unit, to the highway, once they get that far, even if they have a sidewalk to get that far, they have no option but to be on the road in their wheelchair if they go beyond that point?," asked committee member Jim Miners.

"I'm very concerned too about people walking along the highway," said committee member Phyllis Baker. "I've seen it coming

to Haliburton, another housing complex near Tim Horton's. It is a bit dangerous, I see people on their scooters along there and it does concern me, the wheelchair not having the access or a sidewalk ... to get to town. I know people will do it, they will try."

In a Jan. 28 report, Clendening said "where sidewalks are proposed adjacent to a provincial highway, the installation and maintenance of such would be a municipal responsibility and would require an agreement with the Ministry of Transportation to provide assurances for such. Given the distances involved, the cost of installing a sidewalk along Highway 35 would be considerable."

He noted the concern had also been raised during a virtual open house held Dec. 16.

Committee members also questioned the number of parking spaces and accessible parking spaces available to residents and their guests or visitors, which might include personal support workers.

"I do think that it should be the responsibility of the developer to make sure that there are some parking spots that are designed as truly accessible," said Warden Liz Daniels.

"I'd like to echo that too, that seems like an oversight," said committee member Sarah Levis.

Committee chair Councillor Cec Ryall said parking design as presented was "definitely an issue that needs more investigation one way or another," while Councillor Pat Kennedy said he was concerned about the lack of parking and said developers were "going to have to do some more work to accommodate some more spaces," ensuring that those using spaces didn't have a great distance between their parking spot and entrance to the units.

While one committee member noted they were disappointed the plans were not more proactive in addressing accessibility issues, county CAO Mike Rutter clarified the plans were requested prior to them being fully formed so that comment could be made as early as possible.


"I think it is important though that as these proposals become more fully formed, we continue to monitor them, watch for the changes that are happening and even provide further comment when that happens, but this really is something that is coming about because we asked to see these plans early," said Rutter.

Clendening will bring the comments of the committee to Minden Hills council for their consideration.

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COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County								
County	Current Cases Not Resolved	Current High Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Confirmed Cases (Total to date)	Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to Date)	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Confirmed Deaths (Total to date)	Probable Deaths (Total to date)
Haliburton	0	1	0	51	51	2	0	0
Kawartha Lakes	10	43	0	537	485	27	42	13
Northumberland	17	53	0	444	416	15	11	0
Total***	27	100	0	1,032	952	44	53	13

No confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County

On Tuesday, the local health unit reported no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County with one current high-risk contact. To date, 14 variants of concern have been identified in the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district area, none in Haliburton County. /Screenshot

Fourteen variants of concern identified in region

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Fourteen additional variants of concern have been identified in COVID-19 cases in the region, that number more than doubling last week from five last Monday to 12 on Friday, and 14 by Monday. The cases are located in Northumberland County and City of Kawartha Lakes, identified as the N501Y variant, and were acquired outside the region, according to the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit.

Dr. Ian Gemmill, acting medical officer of health, spoke to the topic and provided the most updated numbers at that point on Feb. 24 at his regularly-scheduled weekly press conference. At that time, he mentioned five new variants of concern in addition to the three prior cases, but later in the afternoon an additional case had been added. Three more were identified in the health unit's Friday epidemiological report, an additional two in the March 1 report.

"The situation with VOCs can change quickly," he said in comments shared by the health unit an hour after the press conference.

"The source of all of these VOCs are tied to contacts with others outside the HKPRDHU region," Gemmill said in comments. "The nine VOCs involve three clusters and a single case ... and in all these situations, these local VOCs are well under control as the people involved are isolating and limiting their contacts."

In last week's meeting, Gemmill said he did not have at that time the information about where the cases were located, nor which strain had been identified.

When it was noted by a reporter that people are concerned and want further information, Gemmill said:

"We need to assume that coronavirus is everywhere," he said. "We need to assume that the variants could pop up anywhere. So far, they've all had the acquisition outside of our area, which means it's not being transmitted in [the HKPR region]. I agree there's a public interest in knowing which county it's in, we'll get that for you, but I think that people need to behave as though they could be exposed to this at any point. I think that's a message I have to keep repeating, repeating, repeating, because it's so key to the preventative measures."

On Feb. 9, the region's first identified variant of concern was reported. That case was linked to a resident in Port Hope, and later at a Feb. 17 press conference, Gemmill said two of that resident's household contacts were also identified as having variant cases of COVID-19, noting that those individuals had been isolating.

"This is a controlled situation," said Gemmill at that time. "Since they've all been quarantined, I'm not worried particularly about these cases."

Across Ontario, Gemmill said at the Feb. 17 press conference, the proportion of positive cases constituted by the variants of concern are rising, and he was hearing "worrisome chatter" about it being identified in other parts of Ontario.

"We have been affected, but in a very minor way, but this

is becoming a big issue across the province of Ontario," he said.

The variants are more transmissible than the original virus, and can amplify cases because of the ease in which they spread, which has led to speculation about a potential third wave and lockdown to protect hospital capacity.

"Anything is possible, but I'll be completely forthright with you, the way this variant is behaving, the one [identified in] the U.K. primarily, I'm not sure we're going to have control of it, so it could theoretically replace the original virus and become the dominant one, and then it's going to be a lot more difficult to control," said Gemmill.

As of the March 2 HKPRD health unit update, Haliburton County has zero confirmed cases of COVID-19, with one current high-risk contact. City of Kawartha Lakes currently has 10 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 43 high-risk contacts, and Northumberland County has 17 current cases of COVID-19 and 53 high-risk contacts.

"What is worrisome is the continuing spread of coronavirus variants across Ontario," said Gemmill in Feb. 24 comments. "We are likely to see more of these VOCs in our region, so the need to take public health prevention measures continues to be important until more people are vaccinated."

“

We are likely to see more of these VOCs in our region, so the need to take public health prevention measures continues to be important until more people are vaccinated.

— DR. IAN GEMMILL,
ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Vaccine roll-out picking up speed

by **SUE TIFFIN**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The following are brief reports from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference with Dr. Ian Gemmill, acting medical officer of health, held on Feb. 24.

Thousands of vaccines came to the region last week, with more expected this week – enough to vaccinate long-term care staff and essential caregivers, and to start vaccinating high-priority front-line workers facing potential exposure to COVID-19 on a daily basis.

“We’re not yet, to use the words of the leaders in Toronto, swimming in vaccine, but we’re doing better in the vaccine department, the trickle is starting to turn into a bit of a flow,” said Gemmill.

To date, 1,700 residents of long-term care homes in the region, and some staff when vaccines were left over, who wanted a vaccine have received their first shot of the Moderna vaccine, with second doses coming soon. The vaccines need to be given 28 days after the first shot, as per clinical trials.

“I’m really hopeful that this will be the end of outbreaks in long-term care homes,” said Gemmill.

About 4,500 Pfizer vaccines were delivered last week for long-term care workers, essential caregivers connected to long-term care homes, and healthcare workers. Gemmill said the eventual arrival of fridge-stable vaccines, rather than those that require even lower temperatures, will help vaccinate members of the general population, starting with essential workers and those over the age of 80.

New information is coming to the vaccine advisory committee from the province regularly, said Gemmill, and planning is underway to prepare for the roll-out of mass immunization of the general population.

On Friday, Feb. 26, the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team, Haliburton Family Medical Centre, Haliburton County Paramedic Service, the County of Haliburton and Haliburton Highlands Health Services distributed a press release announcing they are working collaboratively with the public health unit to prepare for a community vaccination hub in Haliburton County. No firm timelines or clinic information is available at this time. Information regarding when, where and how to book appointments for vaccination will be available in the coming weeks via newspapers, local radio stations, social media and health care partner websites. There is not currently a wait list process.

1,032 cases total, 14 identified as variants of concern

The 1,000th case of confirmed COVID-19 since the pandemic began was reported in the region last week.

“It’s not what’s happened in the past, but what’s happening recently that’s the most important,” said Gemmill, discussing the region’s epidemiological reports.

“

I’m really hopeful that this will be the end of outbreaks in long-term care homes.

— DR. IAN GEMMILL

”

He said there had been quite a marked decline in the running average of cases over the past few weeks, and that outbreaks were down as well.

“I think we are really in good shape at this point in time, and I really do want to stay in good shape,” said Gemmill, noting he was moderately concerned that the low numbers were related to the stay-at-home orders, which were lifted by the provincial government on Feb. 16.

“I’m not sure what’s going to happen with the end of this order, and that’s what I’m a little bit worried about,” he said. “I think there is the potential, if people don’t follow the guidelines and restrictions that are in place, that we could end up with another rise, which means another lockdown possibly, and then back to where we were. I don’t want that to happen.”

Over the past few weeks, Gemmill has been reiterating concern that the reopening of the province would lead to people feeling relaxed about public health recommendations that are still in place, including physically distancing and mask-wearing, and has stressed that people should still stay home as much as possible.

“This is not rocket science,” said Gemmill. “I see people saying, ‘oh good, the numbers are going down, we’re out of this.’ Well, we won’t be out of it, we won’t be out of it as long as 98 per cent of the population is still susceptible to this.”

He reminded the public to “keep the faith,” and “keep behaving in ways” that will help keep the virus under control. Regarding the public’s interest in identifying where variants of concern are located, Gemmill said it was important for people to focus on public health measures regardless of which form of the virus were spreading, and that wearing a mask is not a fail-safe option.

“Masks are helpful, but the best way to keep yourself from getting exposed to this virus, is to stay in your household,” said Gemmill. “If nobody comes in and nobody leaves, you’re not going to be exposed to this virus. If you have to go out, which we all do, to get groceries and other things, the masks are helpful. [Social distancing, masks, hand-washing are] all helpful in reducing that risk, but it doesn’t eliminate the risk.”

As of Tuesday, there had been 1,032 cases reported in the region, 14 of those being identified as the more transmissible NB501Y variant of concern.

Jaycock plans to keep community connections

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

One of Canoe FM's iconic figures is moving away from Haliburton County, but listeners of the community volunteer radio station are still likely to hear Mike Jaycock's signature baritone on the air thanks to some assistance from digital technology.

Jaycock and wife Jane will be relocating to Ingersoll, Ont., later this month to live nearer to their children, grandchildren, and a brother to whom Jaycock is very close.

"It's one of the toughest decisions we've ever faced," Jaycock says of the couple's decision to move. "We knew there'd come a time when we wanted to be close to family."

They retired to their property on Eagle Lake about 18 years ago, having bought it a half-decade prior and using it as a cottage up until that point. "We didn't know anyone," Jaycock says. "Absolutely no one."

To familiarize himself with the community, Jaycock arranged a meeting with Martha Perkins, then-editor of the *Times*. He remembers Perkins imparting this wisdom: "When you move up here, you'll be living here. You're not cottaging."

In other words, better find something to do.

It just so happened that at the time, a burgeoning Canoe FM was freshly on the air. It also just so happened that Jaycock had a professional background in radio, beginning his career as a rock n' roll DJ in Hamilton in the 1960s. He would retire decades later as the president of an ad agency.

At the time, Dave Sovereign, one of Canoe FM's founders, was hosting a weekday morning show.

"He said he could use some help with the morning show," Jaycock says, explaining he began filling in a few days a week.

Before very long, Jaycock was hosting the morning show five days a week, broadcasting live from the station each day, something he did for a solid decade. He remembers lots of



Mike Jaycock, seen here preparing notes during the 2014 Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce awards gala, and wife Jane are moving to Ingersoll, Ont. in late March. /File photo

early morning drives on some snowy and rainy days from Eagle Lake to the Canoe FM studio, located in Haliburton Village.

Jaycock's run on the morning show would come to an end when he was diagnosed with Meniere's disease, a condition affecting the inner-ear and resulting in extreme spells of vertigo, and which Jaycock acquired from years of driving a convertible.

"I had some really scary moments when I was having attacks," he said. "Once I had one on the air. I remember Lorraine's eyes were as wide as saucers."

Jaycock gave the cue to his co-host that he'd be back with her once his spell subsided, leaving her to fly solo for a while.

Lorraine McNeil was Jaycock's long-time on-air-compan-

ion, the two frequently cracking each other up, on and off the air. McNeil passed away from a combination of cancer and pneumonia in 2018.

Jaycock remembers vividly the first time he met her. McNeil had been performing with her friend Maureen James, also since deceased, as comedy duo Lo and Mo at a community event.

"I was really captivated by Lorraine, her sense of timing and her obvious good nature," Jaycock recalls. "It was like Velcro. We just gelled."

He remembers the summer the pair produced The Highlands Radio Almanac, which was a travelling show broadcast live from locations throughout the county on 10 Saturdays. Jaycock wrote 30-page scripts for the shows, and the pair interviewed guests, had musical performers, and even did live commercials – true old-school radio.

"It was a huge undertaking," Jaycock says, adding that it was also incredibly rewarding, and crediting a number of Canoe FM volunteers who helped make it happen. In all of his time on radio, he says the most fun he ever had was with McNeil.

While taking a proverbial step back after his departure from the morning show, Jaycock has continued to remain active with the station, hosting the Friday Drive Show, The Mayor's Message and other programming. During his years behind the microphone, he's interviewed everyone from Canadian comedy legends Rick Mercer and Ron James to best-selling authors to myriad members of the community about their projects and passions.

"We always did a Christmas show," Jaycock says, that production broadcast live from the radio hall, often featuring the music of Loney, Love and Love, and with county residents passing through to bring festive greetings. "It was just full of togetherness and love."

He also fondly recalls hosting the Polar Bear Challenge, a fundraiser for the Haliburton & District Lions Club, where residents raise money and then jump into the icy waters of

see 'WE page 12



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'We will miss the community'

from page 11

Head Lake, crediting Canoe FM production technician Ron Murphy for braving the chilly temperatures to ensure all went smoothly.

Canoe FM manager Roxanne Casey says it's difficult to fully capture the immense contributions Jaycock has made to the station, including serving years as its president, designing the logo with the man in a canoe, providing mentorship and coaching to other volunteers, and establishing a relationship with the CBC that has allowed Canoe FM some unique interview opportunities.

"Mike is simply one of the best and we will all miss his coming and going at the station," Casey told the *Times*. "I can personally thank him for all his support and words of wisdom, especially in my early years of this job. I will truly miss this gentleman."

Jaycock intends to continue to contribute to Canoe FM once he's settled in his new home by recording interviews, and, once a new broadcast board is installed at the station, perhaps even going live-to-air once again.

"You literally take over the station from home," Jaycock says of the capabilities the new board will provide.

Jaycock's volunteerism didn't end at the radio station, with him frequently lending his wit and commanding public speaking ability to numerous organizations in the county, emceeding countless events, auctions and galas. From the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary, of which Jane has been a part, to SIRCH

Community Services, to the Ontario Seniors' Games, to the Haliburton Sculpture Forest, to Tall Pine Tales, a project by members of the writers' and editors' network, the list is incredibly long.

"Special events have been a big part of my volunteer life up here," Jaycock says. "I was always glad to help with their events."

For years, Jaycock regularly emceed the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce's annual awards gala, where he didn't hold back in roasting municipal politicians and other local public figures. He explains he always let them know that he only poked fun at people he liked.

At one of those galas, Jaycock was given the chamber's prestigious Highlander of the Year Award, and he was also recognized by the Haliburton Rotary Club with a Paul Harris Fellowship for his community volunteerism.

McNeil and Jaycock also founded the Haliburton Highlands Shindig, an annual fundraiser for Fuel for Warmth, a charitable organization that helps county residents heat their homes during the winter. The shindig is a variety show featuring local musical acts and other guests, and is hosted by the dazzling Dame Beatrice – Jaycock in a wig, high heels and dress, and sporting a British lady's accent. The seventh annual shindig took place this past November, and Jaycock hinted that even though he is leaving the county, it's possible Dame Beatrice may return.

Jaycock says it's been emotional packing for the move, with a flood of memories com-

ing back to him, and while it was the aesthetics of the Haliburton Highlands that first brought him and Jane to the county, it's the friends they are leaving behind that are top of mind as they prepare to depart.

"We'll miss the beauty of the Highlands and everything that entails," he says. "More importantly, it's about people. We will miss the community."



Wildcats stand against bullying

Archie Stouffer Elementary School Grade 2/3 students hold their Friendship Chain to recognize Pink Shirt Day on Wednesday; Feb. 24 in Minden. The origins of Pink Shirt Day are linked to two Grade 12 students David Shephard and Travis Price of Nova Scotia, who created a swell of support for a bullied Grade 9 student wearing a pink T-shirt by going out and buying pink shirts for them and friends to wear as an act of solidarity. Students across the country now participate to raise awareness and show support against bullying. /Photo submitted by Jane Austin

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Answers on page 18



McKinley Fisher wears pink.

ASES kindergarten students Ava Woodard, clockwise from top left, Violet Charters, Ava Woodard, Kinsley Porzuczek, Arizona Latanville, Bentlee Lyddiatt and Caleb McElwain wore pink T-shirts to recognize Pink Shirt Day.

Community Events

Send your events listing to
Pat Lewis at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Environment Haliburton!

When: Tuesday, March 9
7:30 p.m.
Where: ZOOM
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The Haliburton County Home Builders' Association (HCHBA) partners with the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School!

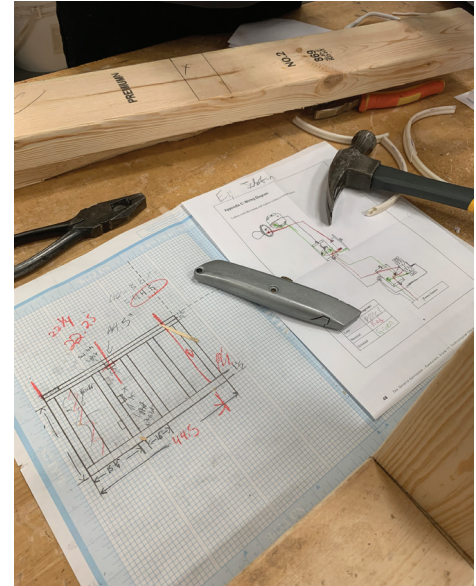
One of our goals in our partnership was to help build a valuable program that will continue to be offered to students allowing them to experience gain knowledge about the trades. Our members in the pre-COVID-19 days would attend classes and speak directly to the students. They would speak on a number of topics ranging from how to show up for work on time and dressed appropriately, the importance of basic math and writing skills and sometimes the members tell of their experience in the industry. This year with the restrictions the HCHBA was pleased to support the Octo-Block five Construction class with the materials and other items required to complete the Building systems project for this term.

General Course Description as per the MOE (Ministry of Education) for the current Block five tech class is the following:

The course focuses on the development of knowledge and skills related to residential construction. Students will gain hands-on experience using a variety of construction materials, processes, tool and equipment. They will learn about building design and planning construction projects. They will create and interpret working drawings and sections and how the Ontario Building Code and other regulations and standards apply to construction projects. Students will also develop an awareness of environmental and societal issues related to construction technology and will explore career opportunities in the trades.

According to HHSS Technical Studies Construction & Woodworking teacher, Chris Simpson, we are doing our best to develop and foster an additional option in technical studies that further focuses on residential construction and repair. Whether it provides some basic building, building systems knowledge and experience or sparks additional interest for students to consider OYAP and apprenticeship opportunities.

Considering the COVID-19 restrictions and course scheduling we are focusing on primarily typical stick wood wall conventional construction. With some basic electrical circuits, wire routing and drywall installation and finishing. All



great skill sets to experience in the school environment and also allows them to employ additional essential skills and work habits that we can further aid in developing. The important skills needed to be a well-rounded trade employee like initiative and reliability, math skills, accurate measuring skills, document use and graphical interpretation.

This block began on February 3 and will continue until March 9 and so far, we have already had two inclement weather days (snow days) where the students were not able to work on their projects and instead furthered explored some of the theory and design elements virtually. It is hard to imagine the complexity of how the schedule is kept on time. Keep in mind the students are asked to stay on track for close to five hours a day in class. This must be next to impossible. Even the most dedicated students will be struggling to keep on task.

The residential construction industry in Haliburton County is one of the top employers. Most if not all sectors of the industry are year-round employers with competitive wages and benefits. It is important to our members that we do whatever we can to promote the students who may someday be our employees. The HCHBA could not do this alone. We have a strong group of sponsors who believe in our association and the work that we are doing in the community.



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7	1	6	4	2	9	8	3	5

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In Loving Memory of
Gregory Darrell Brown

Passed away at the Haliburton Hospital on Friday, February 26, 2021, at the age of 69.

Beloved husband of Janice. Dear father of Warren (Renee) and Andrew. Loving grandfather-beep of Skylar, Aurora, Alex and Landon. Dear brother of Wade (Karen), Brian (Sherry), James (Donna). Son-in-law of Margaret Burton, John and Sue Burton and brother-in-law of Jonathan (Doris), Cherie (Art), Wayne (Terry), Chris, Marc and Michelle (Doug). Fondly remembered by his aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Greg's Life will take place at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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Monday, March 9, 1998

HSRC will deliver report

Decision on Thursday

Individuals in the health services community will soon have the answers they have been waiting for...but perhaps not the answers they want to hear.

The Health Services Restructuring Commission (HSRC) has announced it will be releasing its report this Thursday, in Peterborough. Members of hospital boards and the District Health Council have been called to a special meeting at which the commission's decisions will be revealed.

"Naturally we are concerned about what the commissioners will have to say," Foster Loucks, executive director of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services said. "We came away from our meeting with them (in January) feeling fairly confident that they understood our situation here." However, as a result of the Commission's decisions in the interim, rumours and speculation on what direction the commission might take, have, if not undermined, at least somewhat reduced that confidence.

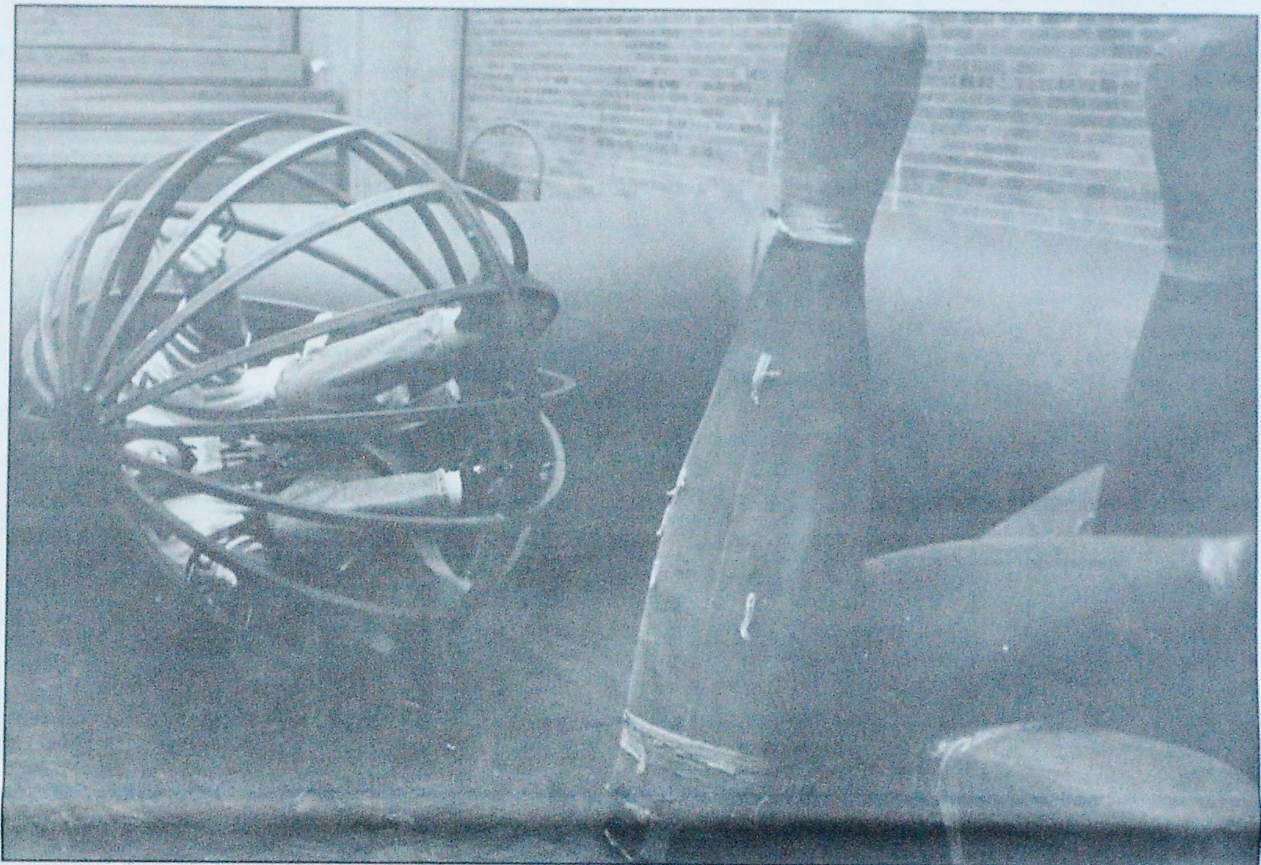
"I am particularly concerned about the governance issue," Loucks said. In adjacent jurisdictions the commission has created "cluster" governance models, combining a number of hospitals under a single board of directors. In Haliburton County, it is only in the last few years that governance of the two county hospitals has come under a locally elected board. Previously, direction of the Haliburton and Minden Hospitals was set by the St. Joseph's Hospital Board in Peterborough and prior to that by the Red Cross.

The executive director also expressed some concern for the capital projects expected to start in a couple of months time. The commission's decisions could have a major impact on the future of these projects. It was felt the commissioners had understood the need for the projects to proceed, but in other jurisdictions the commission's decisions to close hospitals have caught communities by surprise.

One aspect of the HSRC actions has caught many people off guard. When the commission visited the area almost two months ago, they promised to report to the community by the end of March. The early response is a welcome surprise and means that the various health bodies can get on with planning for the future.

"We've all reached the point where we just want to hear what direction the Commission has set. Then we can get on with our planning," Loucks said. "In a way, whatever their comments are next Thursday, it will be a relief to finally hear what they have to say."

Once the report has been released, the community will have up to 30 days to respond to the recommendations, at which time the commission will issue a final and binding report.



This is what might be termed really getting into bowling. HHSS student Jamie Doan finds himself locked inside the ball as it rolls toward the giant pins. The opportunity to become one with the sport was part of the Spirit Week activities at the high school, which also included Sumo wrestling. The week was capped off with an all night dance-a-thon to raise money for the new performing arts centre.

Minden Wild Water Preserve included in Toronto Olympic bid

Minden is back in the Olympic spot light. The Minden Wild Water Preserve is part of the Toronto bid for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games.

According to a press release from the Toronto Olympic Bid Corporation, the Minden site would be used for the whitewater canoeing competition if Toronto were chosen as the host city.

Angela Trunfio, a spokesperson for the Toronto 2008 Committee, said that, following the near unanimous endorsement of Toronto City Council last week, the next step in selecting Toronto as the host site is coming up in April. "The Toronto committee will be taking its proposal to the Canadian Olympic Association (COA) in April seeking its approval. That decision is expected April 17," Trunfio said. Once approved by the COA, the Toronto bid will be reviewed by the International Olympic Association. A decision from the IOC is not expected until the fall of 2001, when the

committee meets in Moscow.

There are no other Canadian cities bidding for the 2008 Summer Olympics, although three have indicated their interest in the 2010 winter games. They are Quebec City, Calgary and Vancouver.

According to the committee, the Toronto bid has a number of things going for it, including timing. Trunfio pointed out that other cities which have indicated an interest in the 2008 Olympics include Buenos Aires, Istanbul and Osaka. However, with the Olympic Games already scheduled for Sydney in 2000 and Athens in 2004, a North American bid will likely be seen in a more favourable light. As well, the US Olympic Committee has indicated it is not interested in hosting the games in 2008.

The Wild Water Preserve was part of an earlier bid by Toronto for the 2000 games. The Minden site has been included again this time because of the challenging course which includes grade three and four rapids, the guaranteed, consistent waterflow and its

proximity to Toronto. The fact the site has hosted several world championships is an indication that the organizational skills are available to ensure a successful Olympic competition.

This current bid builds on the groundwork that was laid for that unsuccessful attempt. It includes some of the ideas incorporated in the 2000 bid and such facilities as the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, the National Trade Centre, the Air Canada Centre and SkyDome. Other facilities which would have to be built would include an Olympic Stadium, an Aquatic Centre, a Velodrome and a Beach Volleyball facility. In addition, an Olympic Village and Media Village would be required in Toronto.

There was no indication of the infrastructure which would be required at the Wildwater Preserve or in the Minden area to support the hosting of the games.

Anson, Hindon and Minden Reeve Jeanne Anthon said she was pleased with the fact that the Preserve is part of the 2008 Olympic bid.

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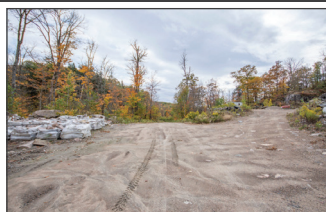
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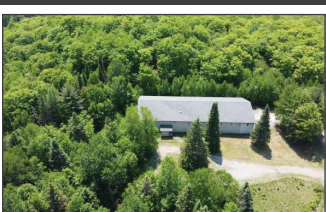
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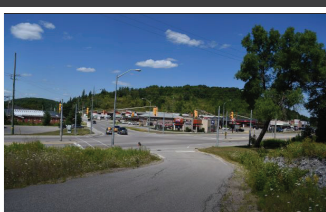
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